MARINE MAMMAL STRANDINGS PROGRAM

The DMR Stranding Program & Protected Species Programs are dedicated to the response and rescue of stranded or entangled marine mammals and sea turtles. In order to assist NOAA with the Marine Mammal Protection Act, enacted in 1972, the DMR Stranding Program entered into agreement in 2005. This program is part of the Protected Resources Division of DMR and is responsible for the protection, health, welfare, data collection, monitoring, and management of marine mammal strandings and the prevention of large whale entanglement and injury. Currently staff and volunteers respond to any live or dead stranded seals, whales, dolphins, porpoises, and sea turtles from Kittery to Rockland. The Disentanglement Network responds to minke whale and sea turtle entanglements, while providing and establishing joint stand-by assistance in fin or right whale entanglements. There are a number of ways to be involved with these programs including field response, office work, educational outreach, and internships. Trainings are conducted on both an annual and as needed basis and include species identification and behavioral workshops. Volunteers are given access to appropriate gear and support in whatever capacity they are trained and are chosen based on location, experience, and skills.

For these programs:



Contact: Lynda Doughty *Strandings Coordinator* **Phone:** (207) 592-3591

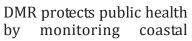
Email: Lynda.Doughty@maine.gov



Contact: Erin Summers *Whale Plan Scientist* **Phone:** (207) 633-9556

Email: Erin.Summers@maine.gov

WATER QUALITY MONITORING



water quality and surveying the shoreline for pollution sources in all shellfish harvesting areas. Currently, volunteers assist by collecting almost 50 percent of the water samples for analysis at our labs in Lamoine and Boothbay Harbor. Water quality data is needed to regulate shellfish growing areas to ensure that only pollution-free areas are open to harvesting. In most cases, water samples are collected monthly from April through October. Volunteers work independently after receiving training and equipment needed to collect samples.



PHYTOPLANKTON MONITORING

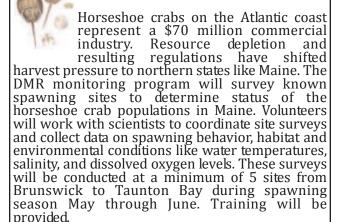


DMR and the Maine State
Planning Office are supporting communitybased volunteer groups that monitor toxic
phytoplankton species along the coast.
Volunteers collect water samples in the spring,
summer, & fall using field microscopes to identify
the phytoplankton species. This volunteer
program compliments the toxic shellfish
program carried out by DMR, which closes
shellfish flats to harvesting when toxins are
found present in a species and are found at
potentially harmful levels. Volunteers receive
training, on-going support, and the necessary
equipment to carry out the duties of this
program.

For these programs:

Contact: Alison Sirois
Volunteer Coordinator
Phone: (207) 633-9401
Email: Alison.Sirois@maine.gov

HORSESHOE CRAB MONITORING



Contact: Alison Sirois
Volunteer Coordinator
Phone: (207) 633-9401
Email: Alison.Sirois@maine.gov









RIVER FISHERIES RESTORATION & ADOPT-A- FISHWAY

There are many opportunities to assist in the restoration of migratory fish species in the Androscoggin and Kennebec Rivers. Activities include transporting & releasing spawning fish to upstream habitats; monitoring & collecting data on fish passage at dam sites; sampling juvenile fish species & abundance; assessing fish communities; tagging and tracking sturgeon; assisting at the Waldoboro Shad Hatchery; assisting in statewide smelt stream surveys; participating in habitat assessment; and fishway monitoring and maintenance. Volunteers work April through December with most field work conducted May through October. Training and gear is supplied for interested participants. Groups are encouraged

Contact: Mike Brown

Marine Resource Scientist
Phone: (207) 624-6341

Email: Michael.Brown@maine.gov



THE MAINE STATE AQUARIUM

DMR's Education Division operates and maintains a seasonal (May through September) aquarium facility. Volunteers are needed to help educate visitors about our touch tank species, which includes a variety of invertebrates, sharks, skates, and fish and assist during seasonal set-up and breakdown. Volunteers have the opportunity to help behind-the-scenes with animals care and feeding, collect specimens, and participate in programs & special events. Volunteers receive training and are given appropriate wear for shifts, which are usually between two and four hours. A Junior Docent program for 14-18 yrs is also offered. Applications available and groups encouraged.

Contact: Aimee Hayden-Roderiques

Natural Science Educator

Phone: (207) 633-9542

Email: aquarium@maine.gov



BURNT ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

DMR's Education Division owns and operates the Burnt Island Lighthouse Station, located at the entrance to Boothbay Harbor. This 5-acre island and historic site was transferred to DMR from the Coast Guard as part of the Maine Lights Program. It now serves as an educational and outreach facility for school groups and the public through overnight and living history programs. Volunteers are needed to assist with facility and grounds maintenance, serve as "Living Lighthouse" family members & keepers, gift shop attendants, and special events. Training is given to relevant volunteers. Groups encouraged.

Contact: Elaine Jones

Education Director

Phone: (207) 633-9580

Email: Elaine.Jones@maine.gov



The mission of the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is to conserve and develop Maine's marine resources; to conduct scientific research on these resources; to promote the sustainable use of Maine's valuable commercial and recreational fisheries and other marine resources; to work with local, state, and federal officials to manage activities in coastal waters; and to enforce the laws and regulations necessary to accomplish these goals - all while encouraging an ethic of personal responsibility for the Gulf of Maine in all Maine citizens.

DMR has many projects. various departments, that need assistance from individuals and groups who care about Maine's marine resources and who are willing to lend a hand to their success. Volunteers offering their time, interest, and skills to our programs work closely with marine scientists on a variety of research, monitoring, and restoration projects as well as in educating the public about these special marine resources. Each volunteer has the opportunity to participate in important scientific work, to learn new skills, to gain a better understanding of our rich and diverse coastal systems, and to help educate our children and the public about this research, conservation, and the marine environment.

Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Maine Department of Marine Resources



Volunteer Programs

- *Marine Mammal Strandings
- *Marine Mammal Disentanglement
- *Water Quality Monitoring
- *PhytoPlankton/PSP Monitoring
- *Horseshoe Crab Monitoring
- *Maine State Aquarium
- *Burnt Island Lighthouse
- *River Fisheries Restoration

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